

## WE ALL NEED ONE ANOTHER

**W**e all need one another is the motto of the León XIII Foundation, named in honor of Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903), who strongly championed Christian social justice and human dignity. I've always liked this motto because it speaks to a profound truth and places us in a mindset of collaboration and social cohesion. After all, how can we create shared prosperity where it is needed most without putting into practice principles such as participation, solidarity, subsidiarity, the pursuit of the common good, and care for creation?

I was reminded of this once again a few days ago in Puerto Escondido. My family and I attended the 30th anniversary celebration of the León XIII Foundation. This remarkable organization was founded in 1996 by my father-in-law, Lorenzo Servitje (†), together with a group of visionary individuals. My brother José Ignacio serves as president, and my niece Pilar has led the organization for several years with a style of leadership that has, in turn, empowered the leaders of more than 300 communities across Chiapas, Guerrero, and Oaxaca where the foundation operates.

The achievements go beyond words. Today, there are 390 savings groups with nearly 25,000 members who, together, have accumulated 250 million pesos in savings.

This has translated into better living conditions, financial education, artisan development, productive economic activities, and healthier, more sustainable housing.



Andrés Miguel, Julia Narvárez y Pilar Mariscal.

What impressed me most was the level of trust that has been built and the systems put in place to manage the savings groups. The model works through a simple yet powerful mechanism: three people—usually women, serving as president, treasurer, and secretary—each safeguard a different key needed to open the cash box where members deposit their savings.

The level of accountability is remarkably high, and the model has allowed the initiative to grow organically and sustainably, while enabling communities themselves to decide how to use their resources.



I also want to acknowledge someone who has been fundamental to the work of the León XIII Foundation: Julia Narváez, a community leader whose example—and the consistency between her values and actions—has been crucial over the years to the foundation's development.

Having more than what is strictly necessary; having dignity, trust, joy, hope, and mutual support—these are among the things Mexicans need most today. I hope more organized civil society groups continue finding ways to strengthen the capacities of communities. And I hope more communities continue building their ability to organize, produce, and care for their people, their rights, and their territories.

In the end, “we all need one another” is not just a motto. It is a way of understanding development: through trust, organization, and shared dignity.

I invite you to watch the commemorative video from the event.: <https://youtu.be/ndM4984IRJk>